

Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA)

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Overview of committee/subcommittee charges, guidelines for dealing with confidential/sensitive issues, NCAA Certification visit, reports from committee chair, athletics director, faculty athletics representatives, compliance director, director of the McNamara Academic Center]

PRESENT: Doug Hartmann (chair), Ron Greene, Rick Beeson, Laurie McLaughlin, Joel Maturi, Mark Nelson, Ravi Janardan, Linda Brady, Rich Weinberg, Luke Silovich, Virginia Zuiker, Patricia Roth, Alexis Russell, Melissa Avery

REGRETS: Timothy Johnson and Linda Mona

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Lynn Holleran (Office of the President), Heath Senour (Office of Compliance)

Professor Hartmann called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2008-09 academic year and asked people to introduce themselves.

The first item of business was an overview the ACA charge and description of the subcommittee charges. Professor Hartmann pointed out the differences between the FAOCIA and the ACA. Directing members' attention to the committee charge, he identified the key areas of responsibility of ACA: personnel, finances/facilities, equity/diversity, conference issues, student-welfare, and campus/community relations. Within each of these areas, the ACA deals with a variety of issues, on a big picture level. The committee is advisory in nature to the athletics director and the administration with respect to issues that fall under those categories. Subcommittees have been created for each of these categories. In the past, the subcommittees typically dealt with the issues. This year, Professor Hartmann suggested that the full committee now be brought into the loop on each of the topics. He proposed, for example, that the full committee hear the presentation about the athletics department finance and planning. The subcommittee would be charged with carrying out the specific work of the committee. By doing this, the full committee would gain a better understanding of all of the areas it is responsible for.

Professor Hartmann reported that he had a meeting to discuss the area of the Equity and Diversity report for the NCAA Certification. Kris Lockhart, (title) was the lead for the effort in this area. He pointed out that the NCAA requires data about equity and diversity. He expressed his opinion that it might make most sense for the ACA Subcommittee on Equity to expand its name to include diversity. He further proposed creating a co-chair position for this committee, who would provide continuity over the course of time. The position for the co-chair would be the director of the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office (hereafter EOAA), who also serves as the Title IX officer. A motion was made to expand the title of the subcommittee and to designate a position for a co-chair, who would be the director of the EOAA. It was approved unanimously.

Professor Hartmann noted that the NCAA review team is visiting campus on October 13, 14, and 15th. Members of the faculty from ACA and FAOCIA will be invited to meet with the three-member team, made up of a chancellor, a compliance officer and an academic counselor.

Professor Hartmann is in the process of contacting faculty members on the ACA to identify chairs for the subcommittees. Members were encouraged to review the subcommittee charges and to let Vickie Courtney know which one(s) they wish to serve on.

REPORTS

Doug Hartmann reported on the following:

- As part of the effort to build campus and community relations, members of governance, including ACA membership were invited to the September 13 football game. He noted that ACA members and a guest were also invited to attend the September 20 football game.
- The fall faculty/coach conversation will be held on October 28 at the Sports Pavilion. The spring conversation will be held on April 14. He asked that the faculty make a commitment to attending these conversations and to bring a colleague. He added that the coaches have been doing a great job in attending these conversations.
- Over the summer, he and Timothy Johnson, chair of FAOCIA (others too), met with Bob McMaster, vice provost for undergraduate education, the President and VP Kathy Brown, and again on another separate occasion with VP Brown and Lynn Holleran.
- NCAA Self-Study: members are encouraged to review the report prior to the peer review visit. Lynn Holleran will send the web address to Vickie Courtney.
- The October 2 meeting will focus on the Equity and Diversity section of the Self-study report. Members from that committee will meet with ACA to provide an overview of its work. Kathy Brown, vice president and chief of staff to the President, will also attend.
- Talking with the media – Professor Hartmann asked members to be mindful of the committee’s protocol for contact with the media. He reminded members that any requests from the media should be directed to him and then he would work with the director of the News Service in University Relations and Lynn Holleran in the President’s Office.

Joel Maturi, athletics director reported on the following:

- His management team has now been in place for two years, which he is very pleased about.
- The TCF Stadium is well on its way to be completed. The first game in the new stadium is scheduled for September 2009.
- Next on the list of facility renovation is Siebert Field as well as the Track.
- The 2008-09 budget is about \$70 million. Minnesota is somewhere in the middle of the pack of the Big Ten schools with respect to its athletics department budget. While the department is operating in the black, it will be a very tough upcoming budget year because there are no opportunities to generate revenue. The arms race continues to have an impact on schools, such as Minnesota.
- The NCAA Certification process, while very good to do, has taken a lot of effort.
- He noted that the MAC reports to the Provost’s Office and that Compliance reports to the General Counsel. This is not typical for most schools. He considers Minnesota to be a leader in the many ways it manages athletics.
- He thanked everyone for their contributions and the roles they play in the institution.

Professor Hartmann encouraged members to attend athletics events, as it would help them gain a better understanding of everything that goes into an athletics department, for staff and for the student-athletes.

He added that he thought it was important to have input on the use of the stadium and the importance of cultivating relationships.

J.T Bruett, director of Compliance reported on the following:

- Organization of the Compliance Office – he distributed an organizational chart.
- He explained the compliance pyramid, pointing out that education is the largest component.
- Minnesota investigates every violation reported. It has a rather high reporting rate because of this. He said that there are about 25-30 violations reported annually. Because Minnesota is so thorough and reports everything, the NCAA knows that it is diligent and forthcoming. Some schools in the Big Ten report only a few on an annual basis.

Professors Rich Weinberg and Linda Brady, faculty athletic representatives reported on the following:

- Kudos to the student-athletes for putting on a very successful Hope Day Festival. More than 2,400 people attending. The event helps kids with serious illnesses.
- Professor Weinberg announced his phased retirement and that a replacement for his position will be made sometime early spring semester. His term as faculty representative will end on June 30, 2009.
- Professor Weinberg talked about the importance of the student-athlete with respect to the work that he and Professor Brady do.
- The Faculty Reps meet regularly with the athletics director and the President regarding local, Big Ten, NCAA, and WHCA matters.

Rick Beeson, alumni committee member asked what people thought were the biggest NCAA issues. The responses include the following:

- While it is more student friendly, it has also become more commercialized;
- Cost containment;
- Admissions standards;
- Continuing eligibility standards – standards have been reduced not strengthened.

Professor Hartmann pointed out that Minnesota's academic standards are higher than the Big Ten and the NCAA.

Mark Nelson, director, McNamara Center for Student-athlete Support Services reported on the following:

- Organization of his office – he distributed an organizational chart and talked about the Champs Life Skill Program, the Writing Satellite Program, and the Mentor/Tutor Program
- Gopher Graduation Program – 48 students have come back to get their degree through this program
- New data Analyst – this position was created because of one of the recommendation of the Kane/Leo Task Force Report

Professor Greene suggested that the MAC provide a list of the majors that the student-athletes are in. He felt that it would be beneficial for Directors of Undergraduate Studies to have this information.

Alexis Russell, student-athlete member of the committee, suggested that the MAC bring like-students with like-majors together to discuss career options in their respective field of study.

Mr. Nelson invited members to attend the MAC open house on September 25 from 2:00 – 4:00 .m.

Vickie Courtney was asked to check on the brochure that is to be sent out to all faculty from the Provost's Office, regarding some of the most frequently asked questions.

Hearing no further business, Professor Hartmann adjourned the meeting at 10:25.

Go Gophers!

Vickie Courtney

University Senate Office